

# Okinawa MARINE

Marines from 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and 3d Force Service Support Group work together to repair the Landing Helicopter Dock and coral runway on Ie Shima during Operation Jigsaw. See story and photos on pages 10-11.



June 8, 2001

Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan

www.okinawa.usmc.mil

## INSIDE

### NEWS

#### Exercise serves as proving ground for new program

Medical personnel at Cobra Gold 2001 test a program in which they consult with specialists while in the field and which allows commanders to keep better track of service members' combat effectiveness.

see page 3 for more

### NEWS

#### Sailors receive pin for service with FMF Marines

Sailors from III MEF are the first Naval personnel in III MEF to receive the Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Pin, a pin designed to reward Sailors for outstanding performance while serving in the Fleet Marine Force.

see page 5 for more

### FEATURE

#### Marines practice joint immediate action drills

As part of Exercise Cobra Gold in Thailand, U.S. Marines from 3/7 conduct immediate action drills with Royal Thai Marines and teach them how U.S. Marines operate while in the field.

see page 12 for more

### SPORTS

#### Tracking the scent of a unique group of runners

The Okinawa Hash House Harriers allows cross-country runners to be part of a worldwide phenomenon, socialize with other local runners and explore the many beautiful sights around the island.

see page 16 for more

### LEISURE

#### Flying an airplane is at anyone's control in club

The Radio Control Flyers Club of Okinawa can help fulfill the dreams of any adventurers of all ages who enjoys soaring around the wide-open skies without all the risk of being there.

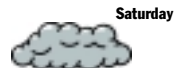
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## FORECAST



Today

high 81 low 79



Saturday

high 84 low 79



Sunday

high 85 low 79

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CPL KURT FREDRICKSON

## Filling up

An F/A-18D from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-533 connects to a refueling hose from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron-152 off the coast of Australia during Exercise Tandem Thrust. Tandem Thrust is a combined United States and Australian military training exercise. More than 27,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines are participating, with Canadian units taking part as opposing forces. The purpose of Exercise Tandem Thrust is to train for crisis action planning and execution of contingency response operations.

## Off-base drivers face strict parking enforcement

SSGT JASON M. WEBB  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP FOSTER** — The Okinawa Prefectural Police will begin strictly enforcing the no parking zones throughout Okinawa June 11-20 after dedicating the month of June to eliminating illegal parking.

The stricter rules come on the heels of a publicity campaign involving local TV and newspaper ads that began June 1 and ends Sunday to warn of the impending traffic enforcement.

"There are more than 700,000 cars on Okinawa, and illegal parking is becoming a serious situation and sometimes the cause of accidents," said Ken Yakabi, Liaison, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler Provost Marshals Office.

The more pro-active enforcement comes after various community groups complained of vehicles parked on sidewalks and in personal parking spots in a conference meeting May 29 in Naha. Representatives from the handicapped, blind, military and emergency response companies and bussing, taxi and rental car agencies also attended the meeting.

Normally police do not cite offenders unless they are called to the scene, but the seriousness of illegal parking has made the OPP go on the offensive against the mostly ignored misdemeanors.

"Most roads are considered a no parking area," Yakabi said. "Most people have to find a spot they have to pay for. If you park on the street in most areas, it is con-

sidered automatically illegal, and you will get a ticket."

For Status of Forces Agreement residents here, it is sometimes confusing to know where and when a person can park his or her car in congested areas such as Naha and Okinawa City.

"Not only is it illegal to park your car in undesignated areas, but also where streets are not very wide," said Yakabi. "It's a safety issue since firefighters cannot get through to accidents. (OPP) can still issue a ticket if a sign is not there."

Officials on base here know all too well the effects parking tickets outside the gates can have on SOFA-status personnel.

"People need to know that if they get cited out in town for anything, all of the tickets get forwarded to our file office," said GySgt Charles W. Gibson, Staff Non-commissioned Officer In Charge, Traffic Court Section, MCB Camp Butler PMO. "(Those who get) a parking ticket, worth three points against their record, can be held accountable even though they got it out in town."

According to GySgt Gibson, a person who accumulates six points in six months carries a maximum of a six-month suspension. Violators who get 12 points within a year automatically receive a revocation that requires deregistration of their vehicle for one year. Vehicle owners must either sell their cars, or have them registered in another person's name.

Since all traffic tickets off base require a payment in yen, most SOFA personnel don't realize that points against their driv-

ing record are tallied on base.

"A lot of people don't know how many points they have against them. If they get two, three or four tickets, they think they are all warnings or one-point offenses, but they are not," GySgt Gibson said. "A lot of people don't understand the system, and then all of a sudden they don't have a driver's license anymore. Most lose their driving privileges from point accumulation for little violations."

Even though the point system can ruin a driving record, the additional costs involved with getting a ticket can negatively affect a driver's bank account as well.

During the 10-day period, OPP will cite parking violators with an ¥18,000 parking fine. If a driver is not present for the ticket, there will be an additional ¥12,000 towing fine. After the vehicle is towed, it is stored at a cost of ¥300 per hour or a maximum fine of ¥25,000 for four days.

Payments can only be made in yen at a Bank of Japan or local post office off base.

According to Yakabi, 318 citations for parking violations were issued to SOFA-status personnel during 2000, compared to a total of 22,248 islandwide, but these numbers were low since the OPP didn't issue as many during the G-8 Summit.

As of April, PMO has 101 parking violations filed for SOFA personnel.

"People need to be aware that they need to take the parking situation seriously," said GySgt Gibson.

For more information regarding parking citations or involving locating a towed vehicle, call 645-7441/7442.

**Report traffic violations at 645-7441/7442**





# Baseball season swings into action with MCCS

LCPL JOSH P. VIERELA  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP FOSTER** — Marine Corps Community Services' Semper Fit Youth Sports Program will be offering sign ups for baseball throughout the month of June.

The baseball program is open to children from all bases ages 5 through 18. Program organizers will be trying some different options this year, including earlier sign ups.

"Our plan is to get everything done before families leave on summer vacation so when the season comes, it will flow smoothly," said Jason Kozerski, Youth Sports Program Manager.

Another change the baseball program will be trying is the scheduling of games.

"Last year we had all our games



Kozerski

on the weekends," Kozerski said. "This year we would like to incorporate some of the games during the weekdays to give the kids something new."

Altering some parts of the program might increase participation, according to Kozerski. Although last year's league was made up of between 40 and 45 teams and approximately 600 children, there is always room for improvement.

"It's like I always say, the more the merrier," Kozerski said.

With that theory in mind, Semper Fit has opened the door to Okinawan baseball teams to compete against the American teams, as it has done in other sports programs.

"The goal is to keep the game fun for the children," he said.

In order to keep the game fun, volunteer coaches are needed to conduct practices with teams.

Those interested in signing up their children for the baseball season or becoming a coach can contact the Youth Sports Office at 645-3533.



LCPL JOSH P. VIERELA

Marine Corps Community Services' Semper Fit Youth Sports Program is registering children 5-18 throughout June for the upcoming baseball season. Practices begin Aug. 6, and the first game will be played Aug. 18.

## Medical technology tested, evaluated

SSGT JASON M. WEBB  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP SAMAESAN, Thailand** — Marines and Sailors forward deployed here now have one more advantage against one of the most deadly enemies: combat-related injuries.

The Joint Medical Operations Telemedicine Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration was tested here during Exercise Cobra Gold 2001 to see how communication and information management technologies can provide improved combat casualty care for Marines and Sailors far from sophisticated medical facilities.

The JMO-T ACTD concept, initially started in February 1999 by the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Advanced Systems and Concepts, uses advanced forms of communications and databases to give a clear picture of medical problems within a theater of operation by collecting the gathered information in one central point for observation and analysis.

"The concept is that if you deploy into an area, a telemedicine team will deploy and establish communications," said Dennis Moses, Technician, Bravo Telemedicine Team. "The objective of collecting all the data into one central point is that the information can have analysis run on it."

The information provided by outlying Basic Aid Stations and other medical facilities to the central location provides commanders the ability to identify and evaluate the impact of combat and non-combat casualties on operational effectiveness.

The analysis provided to the commander allows further review of particular areas that have more injuries or illnesses than others.

For example, JMO-T ACTD personnel here said feedback that shows a lot of upper respiratory infection cases in one place may indicate some sort of disease that is viral or bacterial, meaning that the food source or water may be bad. This would help preventative medicine agencies know to conduct investigations on the units affected.

Another concept being tested called Reachback,

allows patients with various injuries to have a specialist's care in a field environment. Through the use of digital cameras and the Internet, Basic Aid Stations photograph and document patients with injuries or illnesses that basic medical technicians can't diagnose from their remote areas.

The specialists review each case and view the photographs to give their diagnosis. If proper medical care cannot be rendered, the patient is then moved to an out-of-theater hospital for diagnosis and treatment.

The entire process is set up to defeat time, distance and organizational obstacles while providing the most effective healthcare for field units.

An additional aspect of JMO-T ACTD is the ability to keep records via computer without a paper trail which sometimes results in lost data.

"Normally we use phone calls and paperwork that you have to transfer from different commands," said PO2 Chris Rehlander, Laboratory Technician, Combat Service Support Group-79, 3d Force Service Support Group. "This is all electronic. To me it makes things a lot easier. If someone asks you how many casualties or supplies you have, you can look back at the numbers and say, 'I've had this many patients' without having to dig through records and charts. It is all right in front of you on the screen."

Even though this is the second year of testing during the Cobra Gold exercise, other military units and services have trained with the JMO-T ACTD concept during other deployments.

"This is a new concept that is constantly changing. Each year and each new exercise, we make improvements on our communications gear. The devices keep getting faster and smaller. We have to make sure that all the new equipment is able to handle the affects of the field environment," Moses said.

Members of the JMO-T ACTD group here said they will continue to work on the concept to help alleviate the time it takes to diagnose and treat diseases and injuries incurred by Marines and Sailors in a real-world or training environment.



## Bus registration begins

OKINAWA STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

**CAMP FOSTER** — The school year is just about over, but the Okinawa Student Transportation Office, sometimes called the Bus Barn, is still open for business. Parents can register their children for the bus now to avoid the long lines common in August.

There are more than 3,500 bus riders during the normal year, according to Bruce Brinn, District Transportation Supervisor, but about 35 percent of them transition to and from the island each year. The STO has been registering students for the new school year since April, enrolling about 1,500 so far, which still leaves a large number of students who have not registered.

Brinn's advice to all parents is not to wait until August to register their children, as lines and waiting times get very long.

Parents who are re-registering their children should only need to spend about 10 minutes to complete the process. For those registering for the first time, however, it may take about 15 to 20 minutes.

Parents need to bring a copy of their children's registration form, SD Form 600, and their children when they register. First-time registrants also need to bring a copy of their lease and map if they live off base or their housing assignment letter for those who live on base.

The STO is located in Building 5821 on Camp Foster and is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Those who have any questions concerning Bus Monitor or Lunch Monitor programs can call 645-2431/2360.

Questions on bus passes, commuting zones and busing can be directed to the STO at 645-2036/7820.



# III MEF Sailors receive symbol of excellence

PFC DAMIAN MCGEE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP HANSEN** — The Chief of Naval Operations approved the Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Pin July 13, 2000. Nearly a year later, 16 Sailors recently became the first in III Marine Expeditionary Force to receive the pin.

The new pin has been designated for Sailors who have achieved a noticeable level of excellence and proficiency in the Fleet Marine Force.

"The pin also signifies the bond between Marines and the Sailors who serve beside them," said LtGen Earl B. Hailston, Commanding General, III MEF.

Sailors who want to earn the pin must endure various screenings and boards and meet all the criteria.

In order to be considered for the pin, Sailors must have been assigned to a Fleet Marine Force unit and have worked in that unit for at least 12 months. Since some Sailors on Okinawa only come for a one-year tour, 30 days can be waived off the 12-month requirement. Eligible Sailors also have to pass a Physical Readiness Test, be within Navy weight standards, and have promotable marks on their Fitness Reports.

Sailors who meet these criteria must complete a personal qualification book and take warfare-related classes such as weapons systems and land navigation. Once completed and reviewed by the unit's command master chief, Sailors then take a written examination. Those who pass the test move on to an oral board that tests their proficiency through verbal questions and practical applications.

If a Sailor meets and completes all of these requirements, he or she must then be approved by his or her commanding officer to receive the award.

Despite the tedious process of earning the pin, it is something that is highly respected in the Navy and Marine Corps communities and shows a high level of accomplishment, according to Navy MCPO Gerry Williams, Command Master Chief, III MEF.

"We have this pin because it recognizes the contributions Sailors have made to the FME," MCPO Williams said. "The pin is looked upon with high regard in the naval community, and we want to put our Sailors on a level playing field with their fellow Sailors (who receive the training and pin)."

The pin has four sections, each symbolizing a different aspect of a Sailor's duties and accomplishments



Seaman Austin Curnow, Group Navy Training Chief Assistant, 3d FSSG, receives his Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Pin from LtGen Earl B. Hailston, Commanding General, III MEF. Seaman Curnow was the youngest of the first 16 Sailors from III MEF to earn the pin.

when assigned to a Marine Unit, according to MCPO Williams.

The Marine Corps emblem, which is centered on the pin, signifies the fact that the wearer of the pin is clearly a member of the Marine Corps family.

The background of the pin is a crashing wave and represents places like Iwo Jima, where Marines and Sailors fought side by side.

The cross rifles centered behind the Marine Corps emblem symbolize the idea that it is essential in combat for every person to have the knowledge and skills of a rifleman if his or her unit is to survive.

The scroll, which is centered at the bottom of the pin, has inscribed on it the words "Fleet Marine Force" to remind people of the Marine forces' ties to the Navy.

While each component of the pin has meaning, recipients here said it is the fact that an Eagle, Globe and Anchor sits centered in the pin that brings its significance home.

"For more than 200,000 active and reserve Marines, that Eagle, Globe and Anchor is their most precious thing, and we're letting you wear it," LtGen Hailston said in a speech to the pin recipients. "That should

clearly show you with what high regards we hold you and the work you do."

For many of the recipients, the pin is something that will also show the Marines how committed the Sailors are to creating strong and lasting ties.

"Being selected was a great honor," said Seaman Austin Curnow, Group Navy Training Chief Assistant, 3d Force Service Support Group, and the most junior to receive the award. "Now when a Marine looks at us and sees (us) wearing the pin, they see that we've made an extra effort to be intertwined with the Marine community."

Included in the first group of Sailors on Okinawa to receive the pin were MCPO Gerry Williams, MCPO Eduardo Feliciano, SCPO Douglas Cockburn, CPO Rodrigo Macapinlac, CPO Salvador Mancera, CPO Raol Rimorin, CPO Rex Silvestre, CPO Gaylord Jackson, CPO Carlos Bacsal, PO1 Kenneth Mullins, PO1 Victor Main, PO2 Anthony Rivera, PO2 Ali Tayyeb, PO3 Ethan Meyer, PO3 Hieu Thai and Seaman Austin Curnow.

Sailors who would like more information on beginning the process of earning the pin should contact their commanding officer through their chain of command.

## Special Operations Training Group dedicates building to fallen comrade

SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS AND CPL CHAD SWAIM  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP HANSEN** — The III Marine Expeditionary Force Special Operations Training Group dedicated a new building to a fallen comrade and former student during a ceremony here May 25.

Building 2821 was named after SSgt Jeffrey R. Starling, who was killed with five Marines and a corpsman in a helicopter accident while assigned to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit Dec. 9, 1999. SSgt Starling is memorialized with a marble cornerstone and plaque outside and a display case inside the building.

"It's extremely fitting that we gather here just three days before Memorial Day to pay tribute to one of our fallen warriors by dedicating this Special Opera-

tions Training Group building to Marine Staff Sergeant Jeffrey R. Starling," said Col Lee W. Freund, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, III MEF. "All that I have read about Staff Sergeant Starling and all that I've heard tells me that this is a Marine who truly loved the Marine Corps and the pride of serving in a Marine Expeditionary Unit."

Though SSgt Starling was not assigned to an Okinawa-based unit when he died, his name quickly came up when SOTG began looking for a Marine to name the facility after, according to Maj Richard G. Hammond, Assistant Operations Officer, III MEF SOTG.

"When we began searching for a Marine to dedicate the building to, Staff Sergeant Starling's name came up, as he was a former student of the school and some of the instructors remembered

him," Maj Hammond said.

SSgt Starling was stationed on Okinawa from 1994-1999 with 5th Force Reconnaissance Battalion, III MEF and deployed as part of the 31st MEU twice.

During his time on Okinawa and his 9.5 years in the Marine Corps, the South Daytona, Fla., native established himself as a solid, go-to Marine, according to GySgt Richard T. Kerkerling, who served with SSgt Starling in 5th Force Recon Bn from August 1994 to July 1996.

"While on Okinawa, we were in the same platoon and I lived down the hall from then Corporal Starling," GySgt Kerkerling said. "We were both from Florida and enjoyed discussing the races at Daytona. There was never a time he did not operate above the expectancy of a corporal. At the time, he was the platoon communications chief as a corpo-

ral, when the billet called for a staff sergeant."

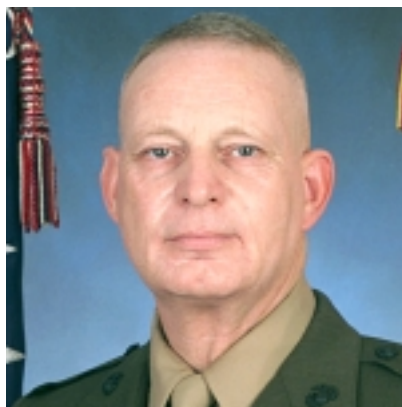
The U.S. Army Airborne Course graduate and field radio operator was not just a professional Marine, he was someone who was a joy to be around off duty as well, according to GySgt Kerkerling.

"Staff Sergeant Starling was a friend. He was not someone to just serve with; he was someone who could be counted on in a time of need," GySgt Kerkerling said. "He was there to support you for work and play. It was an honor to know him, and what a loss his death was to the Corps and his family."

"Jeff was a very dear friend," said SSgt Kenneth L. Cadena, who also served with SSgt Starling. "I will always miss him, but I will also always remember the great times we had."



## Post and Relief



SgtMaj Paul L. Forney



SgtMaj William B. Hartley

SgtMaj Paul L. Forney replaced SgtMaj William B. Hartley as sergeant major for 3d Force Service Support Group during a ceremony at the Camp Kinser gym May 23.



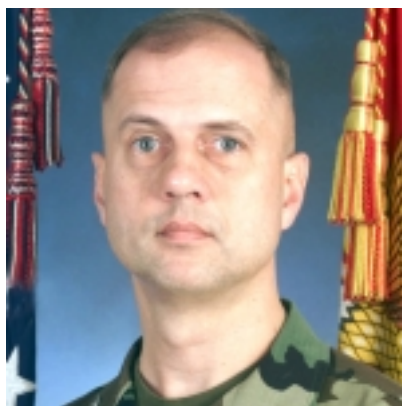
MCPO Ricky A. Thornton



MCPO Dominador A. Ortiz-Luis

MCPO Ricky A. Thornton relieved MCPO Dominador A. Ortiz-Luis Jr. during a ceremony at the Camp Kinser gym May 23 as command master chief for 3d Force Service Support Group.

## Change of Command

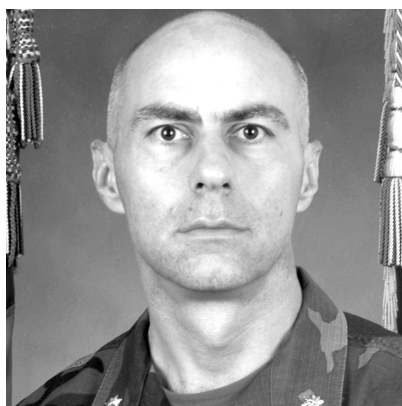


Col Lee W. Freund



Col Ronald S. Makuta

Col Lee W. Freund replaced Col Ronald S. Makuta during a ceremony at the 3d Marine Division parade deck on Camp Courtney Thursday as commanding officer of Headquarters Battalion, 3d MarDiv.



LtCol Mike A. Wesche



LtCol Stephen P. Hubble

LtCol Mike A. Wesche replaced LtCol Stephen P. Hubble during a ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 31 as commanding officer of Marine Air Support Squadron-2, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.



LCPL EUGENE E. CLARKE

A Landing Craft, Air Cushioned lands on Singkep Island, Indonesia, during an LF CARAT exercise May 22.

## LF CARAT completes humanitarian missions

LF CARAT STAFF

**SINGKEP ISLAND, Indonesia** — More than 225 Marines and Sailors finished humanitarian assistance and jungle survival training exercises with the Indonesian Marines and Navy here as part of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2001.

The Indonesian phase of CARAT 2001 is an annual series of humanitarian efforts and disaster-relief simulations conducted with the Indonesian Navy and Marine Corps.

The visit successfully increased cooperation and reinforced trust between the armed forces of the United States and Indonesia. But most of all, it proved immensely beneficial by building friendships and understanding each other's culture and capabilities, according to exercise officials.

"This exercise enhances our readiness for natural disasters and humanitarian assistance to this part of the world," said Cpl Daryl A. Haberneck, 81mm Mortarman, Weapons Company, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines. "I also got a chance to experience the culture, eat a snake (which tastes like chicken, only much chewier) and working side-by-side with my Indonesian counterparts."

The jungle survival training that Cpl Haberneck received was something he and many other Marines would never get the opportunity to do outside the military.

"We don't have jungles in Buffalo, we have snowdrifts," said Cpl Haberneck. "The Indonesian Marines are extremely motivated, and I learned a lot about them, even with a small communication barrier. This is an experience that I'm glad I got the chance to have."

In addition to the jungle survival training and humanitarian assistance simulation, the Marines and Sailors of Landing Force CARAT got the opportunity to help the Indonesian people.

Corpsmen and doctors assigned to the landing force and the *USS Rushmore* provided real assistance in the form of medical and dental treatment at a local clinic to people who normally do not receive continuous care.

The Medical and Dental Civic Action Project administered care to approximately 1,200 Indonesians on Singkep Island.

"It was a good learning experience for all the corpsmen and docs because we overcame the biggest obstacle, the language," said PO2 Brett K. Woodward, Corpsman, Medical Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group. "The Indonesian medical staff was very professional, and we worked well together. This type of training definitely helps us prepare for a possible disaster scenario or humanitarian assistance mission."

The seventh annual CARAT exercise is a series of bilateral training exercises between the U.S. and six Southeast Asian countries, in which Marines and Sailors train with the military forces of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei.

LF CARAT 2001 demonstrates U.S. commitment in Southeast Asia while increasing operational readiness and capabilities of U.S. forces. This exercise also promotes cooperation with other countries, which is mutually beneficial and continues to build lasting working relationships, adding to the security and stability in the region.



## NJP REPORT

The following are alcohol-related nonjudicial punishments for May 27 - June 2.

### • Underage drinking

A lance corporal with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-212, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$534 per month for two months, and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

A private first class with Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron-18, 1st MAW, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$521 per month for two months, and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

### • Possession of hard liquor in the barracks

A private with Marine Wing Support Squadron-172, 1st MAW, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP for possession of hard liquor in the barracks. Punishment: forfeiture of \$521 per month for two months and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

## TMO TIPS

The following are tips from the Traffic Management Office.

For more information contact the local Traffic Management Office or GySgt Quirindongo at 645-0966.

• Occasionally during typhoon season, a typhoon prevents a scheduled pickup from being made. If this occurs, when typhoon conditions are lifted and shipment pickups can resume, those shipments already scheduled to be picked up will be made. Shipments missed will be picked up as they can be arranged into the current schedule. Priority of pickup will be by the first shipments missed on the day which conditions prevented pickup, in the order of the previous schedule.

• Since Oct. 1, 1996, TMO offices on Okinawa have been processing the voluntary Do-It-Yourself moves for movement of personal property within the 48 continental United States. TMO can provide paperwork and counseling needed to make a DITY move. The need for this service is usually for those Marines returning from an unaccompanied tour when their family members are not located near a military installation.

• Current airline policy restricts transfer of pets if the outside temperature is more than 85 degrees for health reasons. If the temperature goes above 85 degrees, SATO receives a travel alert which is passed to the Passenger Travel Office which, in turn, notifies and works with the passenger to either rebook the flight or request that the pet be boarded at the kennel until the alert is rescinded.

• Personnel trying to ship a privately owned vehicle, including motorcycles, should check to see if the vehicle meets U.S. Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency standards. Look inside the driver's door and under the hood for cars and trucks and under the seat for motorcycles for a sticker. If there is not a sticker stating the vehicle meets U.S. standards, then owners must contact Registered Importer to bring the vehicle to standards. A valid contract must be signed and provided to TMO prior to arranging the vehicle for shipment. For more information contact the Naha Vehicle Processing section at 648-7388.



PFC DAMIAN MCGEE

## Happy Birthday

Col Thomas L. Conant, Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-36, cuts two pieces of cake for the youngest and oldest Marines in attendance at the unit's birthday celebration June 4. MAG-36, which was originally commissioned at Marine Corps Air Facility, Santa Ana, June 2, 1952, celebrated its 49th birthday at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The group has been a part of conflicts dating back to the Vietnam War and continues to participate in current joint service exercises, including Balikatan, Tandem Thrust, Cobra Gold and more.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Special Olympics

The Special Olympics is having a meeting Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Keystone theatre on Kadena for all volunteers. All units, clubs, groups and individuals are invited to become volunteer workers, escorts, translators or are welcome to attend the event. Japanese translators are especially needed.

The Special Olympics is scheduled for June 16 at 9:30 a.m. at the McDonald Stadium and Risner Fitness Complex, Kadena Air Base. Loretta Claiborne, International Special Olympics Medalist, will be the guest speaker.

For more information or to volunteer contact Capt Mike Anderson at 623-4362 or 090-8352-0644.

### Marine Corps University

The Marine Corps University is taking early enrollments for the 2001-2002 academic year, which will begin in October 2001.

Courses taught by the seminar include: Command and Staff, Amphibious Warfare School Phase I and Amphibious Warfare School Phase II. The seminars meet once a week for two hours at a time. To receive materials before the start of the academic year, students are urged to sign up now.

For more information contact either Mr. Hopkins or Mrs. Eisenmann at 645-2230, or visit the website at <http://mcu.mcbbutler.usmc.mil>.

### Postal Service Center

As the summer months approach, some postal patrons may take a vacation. The Postal Service Center reminds patrons that mail must be picked up from your assigned box at least every 15 days. Mail left in a PSC box for 31 days may be returned to sender. Only members of the immediate family are allowed to use a PSC box.

To prevent this, patrons should contact the PSC and let personnel there know what they want done

with their mail while they are away.

Patrons should fill out Temporary Mail Disposition Instructions (DD Form 2258). The form should include who will be allowed to pick up mail while the user is away or a letter stating who is authorized to receive mail. Whoever receives mail for a vacationing patron must also be permitted the use of the Military Postal System.

### Third Quarter Safety

Occupational safety is the safety theme for the third quarter of fiscal year 2001. Commanders should conduct at least one safety event by the end of June.

In order to meet this requirement, Marine Corps Bases Japan Safety will have a booth at the Health and Safety Fair today at the Camp Foster Field House that will provide the required safety brief every half hour. The fair will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

In addition to the safety booth, Marine Corps Community Services has sponsored many displays and activities related to health and safety.

Sign-in sheets will be available at the safety booth. Personnel unable to attend should contact James M. Maldonado at 645-2651.

### Pet Travel Update

Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base announced a 3-month test initiative. Passenger Travel Offices will be able to book a pet and kennel with a combined weight of up to 150 pounds without requesting a waiver from HQ AMC. The test program will run until Aug. 31. For more information contact the Passenger Travel Office at 645-2948.

### To submit a brief ...

Send an e-mail to [editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil](mailto:editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil) or fax your request to 645-3803. The Okinawa Marine accepts briefs for non-profit organizations and groups only and they are run on a space-available and time-priority basis. Deadline for submitting briefs is noon every Friday and the Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material to fit space.

# The one day in April that made me better

*Editorial note: The following letter was written by a family member on Okinawa who was caught and punished for shoplifting.*

I have a different point of view today than I did one-day after school in April. I rode the bus to the youth center that day. When I got there, three of my friends who had walked over to the youth center from school were there. We decided to go to the Post Exchange on Camp Foster. When we got there, we went to the video section and one of my friends told me to get some videos and put them in my pocket. After I stuck some in my pocket, we left the building.

Then, two women came out of nowhere and took my buddies and me to the camera room. My newest friend disappeared after he told me to get the videos, and since he was not on the camera, only the other three of us got caught.

After a while, the Military Police came and took us to the MP station. After a while the MPs asked us for our phone numbers and called our parents. When my dad came, we went into a room to tell another MP what I had done.

When we got home, Mom, Dad and I had several conversations about what I did, why it was very wrong and how I should never do this again.

The next week, my dad took me to visit the Foster exchange manager. We talked about how stealing affected my life and how it affected other people's lives too. I think it was a good idea to apologize to

the manager for stealing. I told him that I was going to sell it to my new (not anymore) friend.

Dad has taken away many of the things I used to do, like playing games on the computer and watching my TV.

Two months later, my dad took me to the Base Inspector's Office for a hearing. We talked about what I did. I told them that I regretted stealing from the exchange.

Now I have to do forty hours of community service and write this essay. My identification card is restricted for four months. The only places on base I can go to are the library, banking facilities, credit unions, medical and dental, school, and places of worship. I can't go to any exchange, concessions, commissary, youth center or any MCCS activities.

I'm writing this essay for several reasons. One, the inspector and my dad told me to, and, two, to show that I am sorry. I am also writing this essay to reach out to children to tell them not to steal, or your life will be miserable. I am also doing community service, and I think it is the best way to say sorry for what I did.

I learned never to steal again. I also learned I need to pick friends wisely. I needed to listen to my parents about the people I choose as my friends. I must trust myself and not trust anyone who is telling me to do something that I know is wrong. You cannot get away with stealing, so don't do it. You're going to get caught. Stealing will ruin

yours and others lives. When you grow up, the incident will be on your record and you won't be able to get a very good job.

I now know this incident has an impact on a lot of things and people in my life. I got my two good friends in trouble by listening to another friend I wanted to impress. Not being able to go to the exchange or commissary impacts me helping my mom to do some shopping after school or on Saturdays.

My dad is very embarrassed, and he had to take time from work; his bosses and friends all had to deal with my actions. Now everyone who knows my history of stealing may be more suspicious of me and accuse me of stealing if their things are missing.

Also, my parents can't trust me anymore. I now have to work harder to gain their trust back. I might not be able to get a summer hire job next year. I won't be able to take karate class this summer.

I think the commanding general can prevent or deter future theft by visiting schools and giving presentations about stealing. He can get volunteers to make posters on youth that steal.

Now I feel that I shouldn't have done it. I should have listened to my parents, I should have thought it over, and I should have said "no!" I feel embarrassed in class; so does my dad, and so do the people with me during the incident, my good friends. All I have to say is I am very, very sorry and I will never ever do this again!

*Submitted by the Base Inspector's Office*

## What Would You Do?

The following examination of leadership issues is not intended to present right or wrong answers. The goal is to provide a forum to encourage leadership discussions of challenging issues. Chaplain responses are designed to provide moral and ethical guidance. Questions, comments or ideas for a future scenario may be submitted to: [editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil](mailto:editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil)

### Unwelcome guests

"If she doesn't leave right now, I'm going to call the duty! I have had it up to here with her. She has been over every night this week and it is just a matter of time before you or both of us get caught."

"Dude, there is no way you are going to rat me out. You are just jealous because she liked me and not you. Besides, she doesn't mess up anything. As a matter of fact last week she washed both our clothes. You weren't complaining then."

"I am not jealous and I don't hate her, but when you asked if I minded that she spent the night, I said I didn't care. But I didn't think you were going to have her move in. All I want is to come back to the Q and relax without her being here."

"Listen, tonight will be the last night this week, I promise."

"Fine, just keep it down."

That argument is on Wednesday and it is now Friday and she is back. You would start swinging right now, but your roommate is twice your size. He is also your fire team leader. What do you do?

### What the Marines said

**Lance corporal with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing:** I wouldn't have let her come over in the first place if she didn't belong in the room.

**Private first class with Marine Corps Base:** First, no opposite sex is allowed to sleep over in rooms anyway. They probably both want her, so I suggest the only way to fix it is to move out or come to blows. If neither works it is time to rat him out.

**Corporal with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing:** I would give him an ultimatum: either she goes or I tell. The chances of getting caught only increase if she continues to stay over. I would have never let her stay one night.

**Lance corporal with Marine Corps Base:** I would tell a noncommissioned officer or the duty and let him or her deal with it if he doesn't listen to what I say. The punishment for me not saying anything sooner is worth getting rid of the problem."

### What the Chaplain said

The barracks, or the "Q," has specific guidelines for the safety, good order and discipline of all the residents. Compliance with these guidelines results in a healthy life and peaceful environment without any fear of consequences. It is obvious that both service members are fearful of being caught. The service member who brought the girl in the room is hurting himself and his roommate by causing undue fear and anxiety that may affect all spheres of their lives, including work. He is also compromising his integrity and putting his roommate in harm's way as well. The service member may think that he can get away with the whole situation without anyone's knowledge. However, he forgets that there is one source who is aware of all the things, seen and unseen, between the heaven and the earth. Furthermore, his actions are in violation of General Article 134 of the UCMJ that may result in punitive actions. The article accounts for the following actions:

- You cause or are involved in any disorder or show neglect to the prejudice of good order and discipline in the armed forces.
- You demonstrate any conduct of a nature to bring disrespect upon the armed forces.
- You commit any crime and offense that is not capital.

The service member should have never brought the girl in the room. His roommate should have spoken strongly against dangers caused by the presence of any opposite gender in the room the very first time he saw the girl. Now both are an accessory in violation of good order and discipline in the barracks, or the "Q." The duty NCO, SNCO, OOD or SDO must be informed of the situation immediately. Being brave requires a person to have inner courage to speak out in order to protect one's honor or integrity and maintaining a commitment to do the same under all situations.

- Navy LT Hussain M. Shaikh, H&HS Chaplain, MCAS Futenma



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# Marines pave way to le Sh

Story and photos by LCpl Keith R. Meikle

**IE SHIMA** — Marine Wing Support Squadron-172 has spent a month here repairing the Landing Helicopter Dock and the coral runway during Operation Jigsaw.

The repairs for the LHD included tilling the ground, compacting the coral, and laying the expeditionary airfield matting. The Marines are also repairing the coral runway by digging up the damaged runway and repacking it with steamrollers to ensure inspection requirements are met.

The 48 MWSS-172 Marines and four Marines from 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group working on the repairs said they expect to complete the coral runway soon.

The LHD is already complete thanks to new technology that has made the repairs faster and easier than in previous jobs at other sites.

"Our technology has (improved) over the years," said SSgt George Lassiter, Heavy Equipment Lot Foreman, MWSS-172, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. "Now a laser does the job. It lets us know if we are grading too high or too low."

The laser leveling system alters an area of groundwork that included digging up material, and repacking the ground while trying to keep it level at the same time.

After many years of having the groundwork inspected in small sections along the way, the laser saves at least two days of work, according to SSgt Lassiter.

"We used to have each section inspected 3 feet at a time," SSgt Lassiter said. "Then we would have to fix each section that was wrong and have it inspected again. Now the laser leveling system saves us a large amount of

work and time."

The laser leveling system uses a laser tower that sends laser beams to the reader attached to the road grader. The reader then adjusts the blade to its specified height through a computer on the road grader.

Four surveyors, including two Marines who have never used the system before, operated the laser. The operation was a good chance for them, as well as the rest of the Marines, to get some hands-on practice working on airfields, according to LtCol Peter Warker, Commander, MWSS-172.

"What's key about this operation is it's really good practice for our engineers who will be going on future deployments to do the same kind of work," LtCol Warker said.

The new Marines learned many things about their jobs during the training.

"This is my first time doing what I went to school for," said PFC Brian Hendricks, Expeditionary Airfield Specialist, MWSS-172. "It's fun and a good opportunity for me to learn (about my job) and to better prepare me for other missions."

Although the Marines enjoyed the experience, this was also the first time some of them noticed what they can accomplish as a team.

"It's a great feeling when you look at 400 feet of ground ripped up in one day," PFC Hendricks said. "That's an awesome feeling and sense of accomplishment knowing that I contributed to it."

LCpl Jay Gearheard, Expeditionary Airfield Specialist, MWSS-172, drives a stake into the ground with a jackhammer during the repairs on the Landing Helicopter Dock May 22.





# ima



LCpl Daniel Adams, Heavy Equipment Operator, MWSS-172, rolls over the coral runway on Ie Shima to repack it during repairs made by more than 50 Marines from MWSS-172 and 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3d FSSG.



LCpl Scott Boylan, Engineer Assistant, MWSS-172, sets the laser leveling system up for repairs on the LHD.



PFC Brian Hendricks, Expeditionary Airfield Specialist, MWSS-172, uses his hands to clear dirt, so the new LHD matting will lay flat.



Cpl Michael Coffey, Heavy Equipment Operator, MWSS-172, operates the grader with the laser instrument to ensure correct depth during the repairs on the LHD.



# Marines open fire



Marines from Co I, 3/7 lay a base of fire before assaulting their objective during an immediate action drill at Ban Chan Khrem, Thailand.

## Marines take immediate action in remote Thailand

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SSGT JASON M. WEBB  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**BAN CHAN KHREM, Thailand**—With his M-16A2 rifle in hand, a scout sneaks slowly through the thick underbrush of elephant grass that covers the valley here in a thick green blanket.

Both scouts are in place awaiting orders. The command is given and both of them unleash a deadly fury of rounds at their target: a human-shaped target placed on an adjacent hill repeatedly takes a pummeling as the scouts move back to a safer and less visible location.

This scenario, called an immediate action drill, is only one of many exercises Marines from 3d Battalion, 7th Marines performed during Exercise Cobra Gold 01 in a remote and vast training area not far from the Cambodian border.

"I like this training a lot," said Cpl Jonathan Blix, Scout, Scout Sniper Platoon, 3/7. "We can't do any of this at Camp Schwab (on Okinawa, Japan). Here the range fan is so large that we aren't worried about shooting a little off."

Scout Sniper Platoon is only a small fraction of the live-fire training here with other Marines from Companies I and L and Royal Thai Marines moving through the valley at their targets and objectives.

Only two days prior, Company L was on the other

side of a hill here running through the basics of squad tactics with their Thai counterparts.

With the flanking of Assault Amphibian Vehicles to their flank, Marines paced themselves over the tough terrain with the Royal Thai Marines bringing up their rear.



A Marine from Co I, 3/7 unleashes full firepower on the enemy objective at Ban Chan Khrem, Thailand, during an immediate action drill.

tack, how to keep their formation on line, and how we embark and disembark the AAVs. They have been (imitating) our every move out here."

In the two weeks of training with the Royal Thai Marines, the Marines from the two companies led and taught their platoon assaults and lead and follow company assaults to their eager Thai comrades.

"I hope we have built a camaraderie with the Thais," said 2ndLt Randall P. Hsia, Forward Observer, Battery I, 3/7. "It makes all the training with them worthwhile knowing that when you go home, you have had an experience that most people will never have."

The objective was just over three small hills to their north. Once everything was in place, the U.S. Marines led the way, as three platoons of U.S. Marines and one Thai platoon set out to capture a small area marked with a red sign on top of a hill.

"We pretty much showed them the basics of how we do our job," said Cpl Jason Canup, Team Leader, Co I, 3/7. "We have been showing them our tactics and maneuvers, how to run an attack, how to keep their formation on line, and how we embark and disembark the AAVs. They have been (imitating) our every move out here."



Royal Thai Marines crosstrain with U.S. Marines at Ban Chan Khrem, Thailand. The Marines practiced lead and follow squad tactics May 17 and improved their interoperability with each other.



Marines from Co I, 3/7 assault an enemy position after exploding a Bangalore torpedo on an enemy fortification.



# Eye Care Services at U.S. Naval Hospital help keep Life in focus

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL CHAD SWAIM  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP LESTER** — Eye care specialists here provide service and family members with all they need to keep their vision clear and trouble free.

The Eye Care Service at U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa, is divided into two sections: optometry and ophthalmology. The optometry department deals with diagnosing vision troubles that can usually be corrected with glasses or contact lenses, while ophthalmology usually deals with disease and eye repair.

"We have a multifaceted purpose as far as our mission is concerned," said Navy LT Kenneth A. Loftus, Optometry Department Head, USNH. "We're ensuring the vision readiness of the troops and taking care of their families' vision needs as well."

The most important job of the optometry department is making sure troops are ready to deploy. Marines should have all of their glasses with them before they come to Okinawa.

"That's a bigger problem than I expected it to be here," LT Loftus said. "Forty to 50 percent of Unit Deployment Program Marines don't have their required two pairs of glasses and one pair of gas mask inserts."

With a five to six-week wait between making the appointment and getting the glasses shipped to Okinawa, many UDP Marines are already on another deployment. To get the Marines the glasses they need, the clinic has started mailing the glasses to the customers. They started doing this because no one was picking up the finished products.

"Last year we recycled \$80,000 worth of glasses," said PO2 Michael Giuliano, Leading Petty Officer, Optometry Department, USNH. "The problem was that Marines move around a lot. We would get their glasses in and they would be in Thailand or on some other deployment and never make it back here to pick them up."

The optometry department takes appointments for regular eye exams and emergencies on a case-by-case basis.

"Personnel with an eye injury should first go to one of the clinics or Battalion Aid Stations," LT Loftus said. "Most times they can take care of it, but if it's something that they think they need more help with, they give us a call."

The optometrists can treat eye diseases, prescribe drops and some oral medications, and do minor procedures such as removing foreign objects. They can also determine what kind of glasses people need and fit contact lenses.

The Optometry department uses a phoropter to determine what the prescription strength of glasses patients' need.

"It's basically like a million pairs of glasses in one little machine," LT Loftus said. "We have to figure out which combination works best for each patient."

They also use computers that can make topographical maps of the surface of an eye.

"That's useful if there are minor irregularities that we can't pick up with a microscope," LT Loftus said.

The optometry department is currently working with three optometrists.

"We're working with 60 percent of our staff, but it's the same throughout the Department of Defense," LT Loftus said. "Our clinic is short staffed

"We're ensuring the vision readiness of the troops and taking care of their family's vision needs as well."

- Navy LT Kenneth A. Loftus

and do eye muscle surgery to correct misalignment of the eye."

The ophthalmology department uses the same state-of-the-art equipment that its civilian counterparts use. However, being on Okinawa does have its drawbacks.

"There are a lot of new technologies in use, but unfortunately a lot of it is not available on Okinawa because of the remote location and the budgetary constraints," LCDR Stanley said.

The optometry department at USNH is open five



LCDR Philip F. Stanley, Staff Ophthalmologist, USNH, uses a slit lamp to examine this patient's eye. The slit lamp is a microscope that allows doctors a high magnification 3-D look at the eye.

so we can't provide all of the services we are trained to do."

This is why the department limits its contact lens work. If a patient already wears contact lenses and they have the prescription information for those contact lenses, the optometry department can renew that prescription.

"We do make sure the contact is fitting the eye well," LT Loftus said. "We have to see it in the patient's eye and have that lens prescription."

If personnel want to start wearing contacts, the optometry department would not be the place to come.

"It takes multiple visits to get them right," LT Loftus said. "We just don't have the staff to take care of it."

There are some exceptions, such as those with a medical condition requiring a contact lens to correct the problem, or their commanding officer determines that glasses are not compatible with their mission such as pilots who use night vision goggles.

The ophthalmology department can handle all of the same operations as the optometry side, but it takes care of the more serious aspects of eye surgery.

"I usually do about five cataract surgeries a month," said Navy LCDR Philip F. Stanley, Staff Ophthalmologist, USNH. "I see a lot of bumps and lesions around the eyelid



LCDR Philip F. Stanley, Staff Ophthalmologist, USNH, removes lesions from a patient's eye during surgery.



PO2 Alfonso Alfonso, Assistant LPO, Ophthalmology Department, USNH, does an eye screening. An eye screening is done so the doctor will have basic information about the patient before the actual eye exam takes place.

days a week and appointments for regular eye exams can be scheduled by calling 643-7797

"I can't think of a better job," LCDR Stanley said. "There's no better feeling than taking someone who can't see into cataract surgery and have him or her seeing well the next day. That's my satisfaction."



# Doctors provide health care, promote goodwill

LF CARAT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** — Local doctors and paramedics teamed with United States Navy doctors and dentists as part of the seventh annual Cooperation Afloat and Readiness Training 2001 Medical and Dental Civic Action Project.

A village located in Marunda, Indonesia, quickly became a medical center, dentist's office and pharmacy as the Navy, Marines and Indonesians worked together to set up places for people to check-in, see doctors and receive treatment.

During the two-day period, more than 800 Indonesians lined up for regular check-ups, minor surgeries and dental screenings to receive joint care and consultations from the Indonesian and Navy doctors.

"This is a great way for us to foster good relationships and prepare for humanitarian assistance around the world," said Navy LT Michael Yablonsky, Doctor, 3d Force Service Support Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "This opportunity to train with the Indonesians allows us to be prepared in the event of natural disasters or if we're called upon for any type of humanitarian assistance mission in this region of the world."

"It is quite a good program and shows that the U.S. Navy and Marines care," said Dr. Inez Ariadne, one of the Indonesian doctors participating. "We have learned a lot from each other. I look forward to doing this more often."

During the project, physicians cleaned cuts, treated minor ailments and completed full dental exams and extractions. After an initial screening with Navy and Indonesian doctors, patients received consultations and medications. Supplies were provided by the Humanitarian Civic Action Fund and included items such as aspirin, topical solutions and outpatient medications.

"The greatest benefit about this experience for me was gaining experience working with different people," said Seaman Ronnie S. Loman, Corpsman, Headquarters and Service Company,

Headquarters Battalion, 3d Marine Division. "This experience will be extremely valuable for when I decide to leave the Navy because it will give me practical, real-world experience."

Seaman Loman did admit that the only downside of his experience working in the pharmacy was not knowing the Indonesian language.

"Indonesian medications are different than what we have. Matching them was a little difficult. Trying to say people's names was difficult too. I don't think I pronounced one person's name correctly," said the smiling 21-year-old.

Seeing how the Indonesian people responded is an experience the doctors said would stay with them.

"I wish we could've done more," said LT Yablonsky. "The types of procedures we did, however, will make a difference in the lives of the local people. We basically treated infections and performed minor surgeries, to include cutting out tumors in the adults and opening abscesses and draining them in children. The Indonesian people really gave me a sense of accomplishment, and if we can make a difference in just one life, the trip was worth it."

The dental portion of the Civic Action Project was also well received by the local citizens, according to PO2 Arvin Sales, Dental Technician, Dental Battalion, 3d FSSG.

"The dentist and myself went on the project to show the Indonesian dentists the most modern dental procedures (we have)," said PO2 Sales. "We were focused on teaching the dentists about infection control and instrument sanitation while also teaching the local children about proper oral hygiene. Just our presence made a difference in showing our goodwill, and seeing the kids smile had an impact on me; it showed they appreciated me and my efforts."

The seventh annual CARAT exercise is part of a series of bilateral training exercises between the U.S. and six Southeast Asian countries in which Marines and Sailors train with the military forces of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei.



LCPL EUGENE E. CLARK  
Navy doctor LT Michael Yablonsky treats an Indonesian patient at the Medical Civic Action Project on Singkep Island during LF CARAT 2001.

The Indonesian phase of CARAT 2001 is an annual series of humanitarian efforts and disaster relief simulations conducted with the Indonesian Navy and Marine Corps. The visit successfully increased cooperation and reinforced trust between the armed forces of the United States and Indonesia. But most of all, it proved immensely beneficial by building friendships and understanding of each other's cultures and military capabilities.

## Marines, Sailors visit Gladstone State High School

LCPL KENNETH L. HINSON  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**GLADSTONE, Australia** — More than 300 students from Gladstone State High School flocked to visiting Marines and Sailors here for a chance to get autographs and rank insignias recently.

The visit was just one of many events Marines and Sailors are involved in during their stay in Australia for the Freedom Thrust/Trident Banner 2001 exercise.

"Being here today gives the Australian youth the opportunity to learn about the Marine Corps and what our purpose is," said Cpl Matthew T. White, Operations Non-commissioned Officer, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group. "It's good we're able to visit a local school during deployment because it lets them know that we were in their shoes at one time."

The Marines and Sailors who visited the school were happy to be wel-

comed by the children.

"It is so nice to be appreciated and welcomed by another country of residents," said Navy LT Judy T. Malana, Chaplain, III MEF Headquarters Group. "This will be a big morale booster for the Marines and Sailors because they're coming together for a good purpose."

While at the school, the service members visited classrooms to speak with students about the Marine Corps and their lives.

"Teaching the students about the Marine Corps will help them understand who we are and what we stand for," Cpl White said. "Maybe they can take what we stand for and apply it to their own lives."

The students asked the Marines and Sailors many questions about boot camp, deployment, food, family and how they like being in Australia.

"Letting the students ask us questions was a great opportunity to open

up and share with them the life we experience," Cpl White said. "This gave us a chance to represent America and to let them know what we are about."

Visiting a high school in a different country also gave the Marines and Sailors the opportunity to experience a different culture.

"We have so much we can share with people from different countries," LT Malana said. "Our visit was an opportunity to teach them and also learn from them."

Students were excited when the Marines taught them about living in the field. They also enjoyed the opportunity to heat a Meal, Ready-To-Eat.

The students then challenged them to a basketball and volleyball game.

"Watching the Marines and Sailors play basketball was so exciting," said Emma Hamms, 13, eighth-grader, Gladstone State High School. "It's not every day we get to see a basketball game during lunchtime."

As the exercise begins to wind down, the Marines and Sailors plan to continue their support of the community.

"The Marines and Sailors will be visiting other schools to support community relations," LT Malana said. "We



LCPL KENNETH L. HINSON  
LCpl James W. Robbins, Heavy Equipment Operator, III MEF Headquarters Group, attempts a short basket during a basketball game against students at Gladstone State High School.

hope to bridge the gap between cultures and bring ourselves closer to our fellow countries."



# Thai city leaders defeat service members, win trophy

U.S. ARMY SGT TOM BRADBURY JR.  
COMBINED JOINT INFORMATION BUREAU

**PHITSANULOK, Thailand** — Most international soccer games lead to big trophies and bigger titles.

But a match which took place here May 22 between Phitsanulok city leaders and a group of U.S. service members, who called themselves the Patriots, led to laughter and camaraderie between two nations.

The more experienced local team beat the U.S. service members 5-2.

"It was the greatest game of my life," said Army SSG Dennis Diaz. "Everyone was just having a great time."

The whole idea for competing in a game came when the Patriots' coach, Marine Sgt Jared S. Dalton, was talking to a worker at his hotel.

"I was talking to a worker at the hotel who said a team of city officials wanted to play a U.S. team," Sgt Dalton said. "I told her to set up a meeting for me and I would get a team going."

The team of city officials turned out to be pretty good.

"Everyone who played on their team is important in the city," Sgt Dalton said. "They play a lot and have played as a team for a while. We knew they had to be good ... I mean they can play volleyball with their feet."

Despite the experience of the other team, whose average age was 45, Sgt Dalton figured things would have gone a little better on the U.S. side of the scoreboard because the

U.S. team was younger by an average of 20 years.

"We went in just wanting to have a fun time," Sgt Dalton said. "But I thought the score would have been closer."

At the half, Phitsanulok was ahead 4-1 and the Patriots knew they had to do something.

"We got used to how they played by the second half," Sgt Dalton said. "At half time we focused on what we needed to do to keep up."

During the second half, the U.S. service members kept up with their opponents, matching them goal for goal, but they were not able to overcome the gap.

When the buzzer rang and the United States had been defeated, the service members didn't hang their heads. Instead, they were glad to play, and even more glad to play here.

"It was one of the best things we could have done to give the U.S. a positive image," Sgt Dalton said. "Even though we lost, we still had a blast."

Keeping in the character of the statesmen they were for accepting the challenge of the game, Sgt Dalton and his team presented their opponents with gifts suitable for the victors.

"We gave them a Cobra Gold T-shirt that was signed by everyone on the team," Sgt Dalton said. "I also picked up a trophy and had it engraved. In English it said 'Cobra Gold 01' and in Thai it said 'Patriots vs. Phitsanulok.' I wanted to give them something positive to remember about us being here and to thank them for hosting us."

"It was the greatest game of my life."

- Army SSG Dennis Diaz



GYSGT MATT HEVEZI

Sgt Walter D. Strogoff, Satellite Communications Technician, 7th Communications Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, tries to move the ball against his Thai opponent during a friendly match May 22 between U.S. service members and Thai city leaders from Phitsanulok, Thailand.

## Hash House Harriers make running fun

CPL CHAD SWAIM  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**CAMP FOSTER** — A group of adults running through the streets and woods of Okinawa, blowing whistles and shouting things like "on-on" and "true trail" may seem strange to some, but for the Okinawa Hash House Harriers, it's just another run.

The harriers are a social group made up of service members, civilians and Okinawans who come together to socialize and run, or as they call it "un."

The group is divided into two parts, the hares and the hounds. The hares are the first to leave the starting point. They mark the trail for the hounds to follow using chalk, flour and paper signs. The markings, however, do not always lead the hounds in the right direction.

"The hares take off 15 minutes ahead of the pack and leave marks through fields or wherever they decide to take the run," said Neil MacNevin, Local Hasher. "We get to follow those marks, and sometimes we run through the city or go through mountains and rivers, whatever the terrain has to offer."

During the summer, the group tends to stick to the city streets, beaches and everything in between around Okinawa, but the winters are a little different.

"Usually in the winter we go into what we call the 'shiggy,' which is the jungle, because the snakes hibernate during the winter," MacNevin said.

At the end of the run all of the hashers gather in a circle for a ceremony they call the "down-downs." Here they socialize, welcome new hashers and bid farewell to departing members. After a new hasher participates in his or her sixth run, the down-down is also where the member gets a hash nickname from the senior hash members, according to MacNevin.

While hashing is a casual, fun-filled activity, it also has some history behind it and is not limited to Okinawa. A new hash group cannot start without being sponsored by an established hash, which is called the group's mother.

"We're one small group of a world of hashers," MacNevin said. "The main hash is out of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. That's where it was started, and one of its offspring was Taipei, and from there this hash was created, so we're a third generation hash."

The group runs all over Okinawa and the surrounding islands, exposing its members to different cultural aspects of Okinawa.

While scouting a new area for a hash in the mountains around Nago City in April, the hares uncovered six untouched Japanese bunkers, according to Randy Robinson, Local Hasher.



CPL CHAD SWAIM

Eric Willard searches for trail signs in the forests near Tori Station during an Okinawa Hash House Harriers run May 12.

The harriers usually hold seven runs per month, which sets it apart from other hash groups.

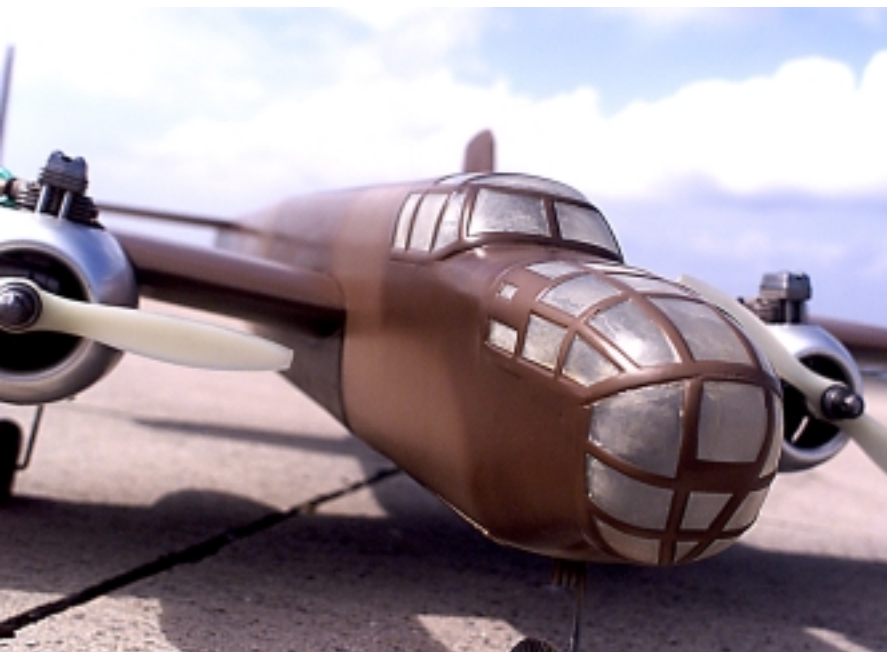
"The Okinawa hash is one of the most active hashes in the world," MacNevin said. "We run every Saturday and every other Thursday. The third Sunday of the month we hold a family run so you can bring out your family, and we have a potluck at the end."

This group, open to anyone who can take some good-natured ribbing, can be reached through its website at <http://userbp.konnect.net/obbb/> for more information on hashes and how to join in.





While owners of smaller aircraft have electric starters, Masato Yamauchi starts his plane the old-fashioned way. Yamauchi was one of 32 pilots who entered the Okinawa Aerobatics Competition held at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in October 2000. The competition tested the precision flying of pilots from throughout Okinawa. Competition organizers hope to bring the event back to MCAS Futenma this year.



This World War II bomber replica is an example of the wide variety of radio-controlled aircraft hobbyists build and fly. Some aircraft can exceed speeds of 200 mph and cost more than \$10,000.

It's a bird...

# It's a plane

**Discovering the thrill of flying is easy thanks to members of local radio-controlled aircraft club**

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT JASON SCHAAPE  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA** — In 1957, while most six-year-olds were trying to learn how to count and read, Jack Hamilton was learning about things like flutters, airfoils and radio frequencies.

Hamilton, the son of an airman, was introduced to the world of radio-controlled airplanes at an early age by his father. He competed in his first national level competition in Alabama when he was just eight years old. More than 40 years later, Hamilton said his addiction for the hobby never went away.

"I've been hooked since I was born," Hamilton said. "I was at the flying fields when I was in kindergarten."

Now the Minot, N.D., native satisfies his addiction as a member of the Radio Control Flyers Club of Okinawa, or the Oki Flyers, as it is better known. The Oki Flyers is one of several radio-controlled aircraft clubs on Okinawa that have formed to help enthusiasts enjoy what has become a worldwide phenomena, according to Oki Flyers president, Air Force TSgt Jody Vogel, native of Springhill, Fla.

"Radio control flying is everywhere," Vogel said. "You can find radio control clubs throughout the world and the Internet has hundreds of related sites."

Hamilton said one of the best things about the hobby is that it's family oriented.

"A family not only can fly together, they can build planes together," said Hamilton. "It's a superb thing to see a whole family out enjoying the hobby."

Hamilton said one of the most rewarding parts of flying for him is teaching other people how to fly radio-controlled aircraft.

"There's nothing like watching a six-year-old fly without any help for the first time," Hamilton said. "By the time he lands the plane, he's ecstatic."

The other reward for Hamilton is flying planes that he designed and built himself.

"I love the feeling of seeing something I designed fly for the first time," the Vietnam War veteran said. "It's a wonderful sense of accomplishment."

According to Vogel, radio-controlled flying is one of the best ways for him and many others to relieve stress.

Te Ruya Hiroshi, the owner of a radio-controlled aircraft shop in Chatan-Cho, agreed with Vogel.

"When I fly, I forget everything else. There's no more stress, unless I crash," Hiroshi joked.

Hiroshi and Vogel shared another reason for being involved in flying.

Both said they have always had the desire to fly real aircraft. However, Hiroshi joked that he is too short and Vogel joked that he will not die if he crashes a radio-controlled plane.

Nonetheless, Vogel said many people are drawn to the hobby because they already have an interest in full-scale aircraft.

"If you don't have the knowledge or courage to fly the real thing, this is a great way to experience flying," Vogel said. "Even full-scale pilots are drawn to the hobby because it allows them to experience flying aircraft that have long since retired from the inventory."

Hamilton pointed out that radio controlled aircraft are very versatile when compared to the real thing. Not only can some fly more than 200 mph, they can make maneuvers large aircraft cannot.

"One of my planes can pull 26 G's (times the gravitational force)," Hamilton said. "Pilots pass out when real planes pull 9 G's."

The price for such able toys is not cheap, even for those just starting to get into the hobby, according to both Vogel and Hamilton.

"About \$400 will get you in the air," Hamilton said.

The reason for the high cost is the different parts needed to begin. According to Vogel, with the help of radio-controlled flying club members, someone could get away with spending somewhere around \$225 to \$250, which would cover a plane kit, engine and radio.

After the initial investment, Vogel said the average beginner takes anywhere from six weeks to three months to fly by themselves. Because of the nature of radio-controlled aircraft and the many intricacies involved, trying to learn how to fly without an experienced teacher is a very bad idea, said Vogel.

"Just getting the engine running properly is an art in itself," Vogel said. "Ninety-nine percent of people who try to learn on their own are doomed for failure."

The countless types of power planes are not the only options for hobbyists today, according to Vogel. Radio controlled helicopters are also popular. He has taken such a liking to gliders, ultra-light, increasingly popular, engineless planes that fly on rising air currents, that he has gotten rid of most of his power planes.

Vogel said the biggest thing in the hobby today is flying tiny planes that can be flown indoors.

"The technology has gotten so small you can fly planes anywhere now," Vogel said. "You can keep a plane in your car trunk and fly it when you get out of work."

For those on Okinawa interested in checking out what radio-controlled flying is all about, Vogel recommends calling the Oki Flyers at 632-3098. The club will give people interested some free "stick time" to see if it is something they want to invest in.





## AUTOMOBILES/MOTORCYCLES

**1990 Honda Integra** — JCI March 03, \$2,000. **1986 Toyota Town Ace** — JCI March 02, \$1,100. 636-3107 or 622-5366.  
**1990 Ford Spectron** — JCI May 03, \$2,895. 646-5197 or 643-7797.  
**1990 Ford Spectron** — JCI May 03, \$2,695. 645-5380 or 643-7187.  
**1991 Honda Ascot** — JCI Aug 02, \$900. **1988 Mercedes 190E** — JCI Nov 01, \$2,500. **1989 Yamaha 250 cc Virago** — free. 646-8253.  
**1991 Mitsubishi Galant** — JCI Aug 02, \$1,600 OBO. 622-9952.  
**1989 Honda Prelude** — JCI Aug 02, \$1,500 OBO. Sean, 645-5660.  
**1989 Toyota Camry** — JCI April 03, \$1,700 OBO. Tim Nelson, 623-4431 days or 623-5104 nights/weekends.  
**1993 Honda Inspire** — JCI Feb 03, \$2,950 OBO. 982-0409.  
**1989 Toyota Lite Ace** — JCI Sept 02, \$1,850 OBO. **1989 Nissan Bluebird** — JCI Feb 02, \$850 OBO. Stan, 645-3144.  
**1988 Toyota Vista** — JCI July 02, \$700. 622-8257.  
**1989 Toyota Town Ace** — JCI Nov 02, \$2,700 OBO. 622-8743.  
**1988 Town Ace** — JCI Dec 01, \$1,000 OBO. Kyle, 622-8743.  
**1987 Toyota Lite Ace** — JCI June 02, \$1,200 OBO. (098) 935-4143.  
**1991 Nissan Silvia** — JCI Jan 02, \$1,500. 637-3295.  
**1990 Nissan Laurel** — JCI March 03, \$1,500 OBO. 637-3933.  
**1989 Nissan Skyline** — JCI March 03, \$1,800. 622-6384.  
**1985 Nissan van** — JCI Feb 02, \$1,000 OBO. Dammi/Rick, 939-8365.  
**1989 Nissan Skyline** — JCI Sept 02, \$2,000. 636-5042.  
**1989 Nissan Silvia** — JCI Apr 03, \$2,000 OBO. 622-9651.  
**1990 Toyota ED** — JCI June 03, \$1,375. 622-8608.  
**1990 Mitsubishi Pajero** — JCI June 02, \$5,000 OBO. 637-4027.  
**1988 Toyota Supra** — JCI March 03, \$1,900 OBO. 645-3075 or 090-3-790-7537.

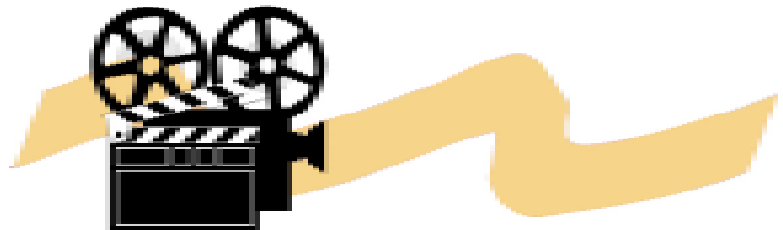


## MISCELLANEOUS

**Misc.** — Proform treadmill, \$150 OBO; Weider home gym, \$150 OBO; 1,000w transformer, \$40 OBO. (098) 935-4143.  
**Breakfast table** — With 4 chairs, \$125 OBO. Rachel, 893-6177.  
**GE Dehumidifier** — \$70, 936-3175.  
**Chain Link Fence** — 62', with gate. You pull. \$200. 622-8141.  
**Misc.** — USMC evening dress, all new braid/gold; trousers 32W by 32L; jacket, size 40, \$300. 645-0295.  
**Misc.** — Transformers 2,000w,\$100; 1,000w, \$75; 750w, \$50. Doug or Diane, 646-6004/645-7817.  
**Misc.** — Weider home gym, \$150 OBO; Katie, 935-4143.  
**Misc.** — Dinnerware: 6 plates, 7 salad plates, 7 side plates, 8 coffee cups, 11 saucers and 5 side bowls, \$25; Daybed Comforter Set, \$50. Jennifer, 622-8412.  
**Misc.** — Sony Digital Mavica camera with extra battery, \$500; 1-year-old Homedics full-body massage pad, \$100 OBO; RCA VHS camcorder with 2 batteries, \$80 OBO; Fisher 27" TV, \$60 OBO; Baby Trend Pack-n-Play, \$40 OBO; Century child carseat, \$15 OBO. Mark or Lani, 646-3051.  
**Misc.** — Dresser and bureau set with mirror frame, light wood with gold trim \$100; 21" TV, \$150. **Wanted** — Small size chain link fence. 641-2622.  
**Palm Pilot Vx** — Couple of months old, \$230. 888-1929.

Ads appearing in the Okinawa Marine do so as a free service to active duty military, their dependents and DoD employees. Ads are restricted to personal property or service of incidental exchange. Ads run on a space-available basis and must be resubmitted each week. The deadline for ads is noon, Fridays, space permitting. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit ads to fit available space. Please include your name and the phone number you wish published. The Okinawa Marine makes every effort to ensure accuracy, but assumes no responsibility for services offered in ads. Submit ads by faxing to 645-3803, Mon.-Fri., or send an e-mail to editor@mcbutler.usmc.mil

# Coming to a theater near you ...



Feature programs and start times are subject to change without notice. **Call theaters in advance to confirm showtimes.** Second evening movies will vary when the program runs longer than 120 minutes.

## Schwab (625-2333)

**Fri** Say It Isn't So (R); 7:00  
**Sat** Chocolat (PG13); 6:00  
**Sat** The Mexican (R); 9:00  
**Sun** Chocolat (PG13); 3:00  
**Sun** The Mexican (R); 6:00  
**Mon** Pearl Harbor (PG13); 7:00  
**Tue** Pearl Harbor (PG13); 7:00  
**Wed** Closed  
**Thu** Just Visiting (PG13); 7:00

## Hansen (623-4564)

**Fri** Saving Silverman (PG13); 6:00  
**Fri** Snatch (R); 9:00  
**Sat** Dracula 2000 (R); 6:00  
**Sat** See Spot Run (PG); 9:00  
**Sun** Exit Wounds (R); 2:00, 5:30  
**Mon** Just Visiting (PG13); 7:00  
**Tue** Just Visiting (PG13); 7:00  
**Wed** The Wedding Planner (PG13); 7:00  
**Thu** Monkeybone (PG13); 7:00

## Courtney (622-9616)

**Fri** Pearl Harbor (PG13); 7:00



**Check Schwab, Courtney, Keystone Butler and Kinser Theaters for show times.**

**Sat** The Mexican (R); 7:00  
**Sun** Chocolat (PG13); 7:00  
**Mon** Closed  
**Tue** Closed  
**Wed** Say It Isn't So (R); 7:00  
**Thu** Closed

## Keystone (634-1869)

**Fri** The Mummy Returns (R); 5:30  
**Fri** Say It Isn't So (R); 9:30  
**Sat** Pokemon 3 (G); 1:00  
**Sat** Pearl Harbor (PG13); 5:30, 9:00  
**Sun** Recess: School's Out (G); 2:00  
**Sun** Pearl Harbor (PG13); 5:30, 8:30  
**Mon** Exit Wounds (R); 7:00  
**Tue** Exit Wounds (R); 7:00  
**Wed** Just Visiting (PG13); 7:00  
**Thu** Just Visiting (PG13); 7:00

## Butler

(645-3465)

**Fri** Shrek (PG); 7:00  
**Fri** Exit Wounds (R); 10:00  
**Sat** Shrek (PG); 1:00, 4:00  
**Sat** Exit Wounds (R); 7:00, 10:00



**Check Schwab, Hansen, Keystone, Butler and Kinser Theaters for show times.**

**Sun** Shrek (PG); 1:00, 4:00  
**Sun** Exit Wounds (R); 7:00  
**Mon** Just Visiting (PG13); 7:00  
**Tue** Just Visiting (PG13); 7:00  
**Wed** Exit Wounds (R); 7:00  
**Thu** Pearl Harbor (PG13); 7:00

## Futenma (636-3890)

**Fri** 15 Minutes (R); 7:30  
**Sat** Chocolat (PG13); 6:00  
**Sun** Say It Isn't So (R); 6:00  
**Mon** 15 Minutes (R); 7:30  
**Tue** Closed  
**Wed** Shrek (PG); 7:30  
**Thu** Closed

## Kinser

(637-2177)

**Fri** The Mexican (R); 7:00  
**Sat** Just Visiting (PG13); 3:00  
**Sat** Exit Wounds (R); 7:00, 11:30  
**Sun** The Wedding Planner (PG13); 7:00  
**Mon** Closed  
**Tue** Just Visiting (PG13); 7:00  
**Wed** Pearl Harbor (PG13); 7:00  
**Thu** The Wedding Planner (PG13); 7:00



**Check Hansen, Courtney, Keystone, Butler and Kinser Theaters for show times.**